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OCTOBER MEETING, 1883.

The stated meeting was held at the rooms of the Society on Thursday, the 11th instant; the President, the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The Recording Secretary read his report of the last meeting, which was approved.

The Librarian presented the list of gifts to the Library during the preceding month.

The PRESIDENT then made the following remarks: —

A succession of engagements and absences from home, Gentlemen, has deprived me of all opportunity of preparing any formal communication for this meeting, and I must be pardoned for the most cursory introduction of some facts, papers, and volumes which might merit more deliberate attention. One word, in the first place, on longevity. The public attention seems often called of late to the great age which has been attained by individuals more or less distinguished. A dinner was given on the 22d of September to Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, the worthy President of the Historic, Genealogical Society, in honor of his eighty-fifth birthday; and the eighty-third birthday of Bancroft, the Historian, was fitly remembered on the 3d of this month. Meantime, Daniel Simpson, the veteran drummer, whose beat was familiar to me almost from my earliest childhood, during the last war with England, was the subject of complimentary visits on the 29th of September, on his ninety-third birthday.

But I have just returned from the Triennial Convention of the Episcopal Church, where a portion of the opening services were read by the presiding Bishop, Benjamin B. Smith, D.D., who had been able to go on from New York to Philadelphia, to take part in this Convention, in his ninetieth year.

All these are well-authenticated cases of advanced age combined with activity and vigor. But when I was at Lenox last month, I drove over to Lebanon, and saw, at the Shaker settlement, a venerable woman, bearing the name of "Sister Polly," who walked to the door with very little aid, who purported to have reached her one hundred and seventh year, and who looked as if she might last many years more. The Shaker records are said to contain ample evidence of her having been brought there by her parents when she was five

or six years old, more than a hundred years ago. I could not altogether credit it, but those who have seen the Westminster Abbey gravestone on which it is recorded that Thomas Parr lived to the age of one hundred and fifty-two, will not easily be staggered by a woman claiming to be only one hundred and seven.

I may mention that during my recent absence in Pennsylvania I attended service at the old church at Radnor, called St. David's, which was built one hundred and seventy years ago, and on which Longfellow wrote some of his charming lines. In the churchyard I saw the little monument to Anthony Wayne, — "Mad Anthony," as he was called, the hero of Stony Point, on the Hudson, in 1779, who was present at Yorktown, who served in the Pennsylvania Convention which ratified the Constitution of the United States, and who died, as commander-in-chief of the United States army, in 1796. His grandfather Anthony, who commanded a squadron of dragoons under William of Orange, at the battle of the Boyne, and who came over to Pennsylvania in 1722, was also buried in the same old Welsh village churchyard, in 1736.

I pass now to one or two interesting papers, which have been communicated to me for the Society's archives. Here is a letter from Joseph P. Smith, Esq., of Philadelphia, which will tell its own story:—

NO. 233 SOUTH FOURTH STREET,
PHILADELPHIA, June 21, 1883.

HON. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, Boston, Mass.

DEAR SIR, — The enclosed letter of Hon. Daniel Webster, written in 1828, to Robert Lewis (the nephew, and for many years the private secretary of General Washington), relative to the medals sent by General Lafayette to the former general, was presented to me some time since by the only surviving daughter of Mr. Lewis.

As I have understood that these medals are now in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society, of which you are the honored President, I thought that this letter might prove interesting to them, and beg leave, therefore, to tender it for their acceptance, to be deposited among the archives of the Society.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH P. SMITH.

The letter from Mr. Webster is as follows:—

WASHINGTON, April 9, 1828.

SIR, — You have done me a great favor, which I beg leave gratefully to acknowledge, by your letter of the 7th instant, respecting the

medals which belonged to General Washington. So authentic an account of them, by a connection of the family and a gentleman of your reputation and character, will render the cabinet an interesting object to all who venerate the memory of your illustrious relation.

Praying you to accept the assurances of my regard,

I am, very truly, your obliged, humble servant,

DANIEL WEBSTER.

ROBERT LEWIS, Esq., Fredericksburg, Va.

This letter is signed by Mr. Webster, and franked by him as a United States Senator, but is written by another hand. It has a heavy black seal, and bears date soon after the death of his first wife. It may well take its place in our Cabinet in connection with the Washington Medals, to which it relates, and which were given to us by the late Mr. Peter Harvey.

Here, next, is the *faire part* announcing the death of our late Honorary Member, M. Edouard René Léfèvre de Laboulaye, sent to us by his family, of whom an account is given in the paper, which gives also all the offices and titles of M. Laboulaye, including his honorary membership of our Society. The death of Laboulaye was noticed at our June meeting, and this paper has since been duly acknowledged.

I have now a little paragraph from a Paris Correspondent of the London "Times," dated some months ago, and sent to me by our Corresponding Member, Mr. Henry T. Parker, which contains an interesting statement which may be new to us all:—

"M. Doniol has been reading, in instalments, before the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, a paper on French intervention in the American War of Independence, according to which the Comte de Broglie, the present duke's ancestor, aspired to the command of the American forces, and to eventual presidency or kingship of the States. His agent, Kalb, had at last to assure him that the scheme was impracticable, and would be glaringly unjust to Washington. It would be curious to speculate on the difference it might have made, both to American and French history, had the Broglies, originally of Italian extraction, become American citizens or potentates."

And now I have a communication from our associate, Rev. Edward E. Hale, on the subject of a Catalogue of Papers relating to our Country in the Archives of France, by Mr. B. F. Stevens, of London. If there be no objection, this letter may be safely referred to the Council for any action they may think wise.

I come next to an interesting volume, which was given to me to place in our Library, while at Philadelphia a few days ago, by our Corresponding Member, Dr. Alfred Langdon-Elwyn, "The Autobiography of Charles Biddle, Vice-President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, 1745-1821." It has, in the appendix, some notable letters in regard to the duel between Burr and Alexander Hamilton.

Before concluding these desultory remarks, I may not omit to say a word of the two new volumes of the "History of the Civil War," by our Honorary Member, the Comte de Paris. They are the fifth and sixth in the French edition, and contain the history of the war for the whole year 1863, embracing Chancellorsville, Vicksburg, Oak Hill, Gettysburg, and other memorable conflicts. My own copy was a personal gift from the distinguished author; but the complete History, either in French or English, will doubtless find a place in our Library, and the two volumes now published will not fail to add greatly to the reputation of their author. They exhibit most careful research, and abound in picturesque details and felicitous narrative.

Dr. ELLIS spoke as follows in regard to the proposed statue of John Harvard at Cambridge:—

As was announced at the last Commencement, Harvard College is to receive the valuable gift of a statue commemorative of the honored man whose name it bears. The gift is from a generous benefactor, General Samuel J. Bridge, an adopted alumnus of the college. A very exacting demand is to be made upon the genius and skill of the artist, who is to represent in bronze the form and lineaments of a young scholar of whose personal appearance we have no representation, relic, or even description. The work must be wholly ideal, guided by a few suggestive hints, all of which are in harmony with grace, delicacy, dignity, and reverential regard. The occasion renews the sense of regret, so often realized and expressed in scholarly circles, that a secrecy and silence as yet unpenetrated and unvoiced cover the whole life history, in the mother country, of him who planted learning in the New England wilderness. We know neither his birthtime, nor birthplace, nor lineage, nor parentage. His name appears on the entry book at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1628. He was matriculated there as pensioner,—that is, one who can pay his own charges,—July 7, 1631. The signature for his bachelor's degree is dated 1631, and that for his master's

degree, 1635. There all we know of John Harvard in England stops. He is called "Reverend" here, and was known as a preacher. But we are in ignorance whether he had been episcopally ordained in England, and there is no record of his ordination, as a dissenting teacher, there or here. The artist would know the number of his years. We cannot tell them. All that we have to guide us is that, supposing him to have been of the average age of twenty on taking his bachelor's degree, he would have been twenty-seven at his death here. Milton, who was born in 1608, was matriculated at the same university, though at another college, — Christ's, — which he entered in 1624, at the age of sixteen. But he did not reach a degree. The statue of Harvard might well represent him in the loose robe and hood of a master of arts. But if he shared the Puritan scruples of his time as to "clerical habits," the Geneva costume would be more appropriate. We do not know at what port of exit, in what vessel, at what date, or with what companionship, Harvard embarked for this country, nor the time of his arrival. His presence here is first recognized by his admission as an inhabitant of Charlestown, Aug. 1, 1637, and as "sometimes minister of God's word" in that town, assisting Mr. Symmes, the pastor of Charlestown Church, of which Harvard and his wife were admitted members. He received grants of land from the town, and on April 26, 1638, was on a committee "to consider of some things tending towards a body of laws." The site of the house which he built is known. Judge Sewall speaks of lodging in a chamber of it, Jan. 26, 1697. It was probably burned in the battle, June 17, 1775. Harvard died of consumption, in Charlestown, Sept. 12 (O. S., Sept. 22, N. S.), 1638, only a little more than a year after the first mention of his presence in New England. By a nuncupative will, of which there is no record or administration, he is said to have left all his library and "half of his estate, being £800," to the college, which the court had two years previous voted to establish at the "New Town," afterwards called Cambridge. Such is the ambiguity of language that it seems impossible to decide whether the whole or the half of his estate was £800. Nor do the accounts and receipts of the bursars of the college satisfactorily settle the doubt. If Harvard was possessed of £1600, it was a very large estate for those days. Probably it was invested in England, causing delayed and fragmentary returns. I once heard it suggested by a friend, sensitive about the rights of women and wives, that Harvard could be commended only with some

qualifications for his munificence, even if shown in planting a college in a wilderness, inasmuch as he left a young widow in a strange land with only one half of his estate. That widow, whose maiden name was Ann Sadler, would appear to have married, within eight months after her first husband's death, without children, Rev. Thomas Allen, who became minister of Charlestown Church in 1639. She probably became by him the mother of four daughters and one son before she gave place to a second wife, the widow of General Sedgwick. Money values two and a half centuries ago were five or six times those recognized by us. President Quincy states the number of books in Harvard's Library, from the list in the college archives, as two hundred and sixty volumes, rich in the best works of classical and other literature. Another account puts the number at three hundred and twenty volumes. All but a single volume were burned in the destruction of Harvard Hall, in 1764. Though many of John Harvard's contemporaries — who, though he had been so short a time in the country, must have known something of his personal history — speak gratefully of his generous gift, not one of them has left for us the slightest information of facts which we should be glad to know of this youthful, delicate scholar, fading away of consumption early in the second autumn of his exile. In that precious relic of the press called "New England's First Fruits," printed in London, 1643, we read that while the colonists in Boston were earnestly intent in their first struggles to make provision for learning and to avert an illiterate ministry, "it pleased God to stir up the heart of one Mr. Harvard (a godly gentleman and a lover of learning there living among us) to give the one half of his estate, it being in all about £1700, towards the erecting of a college, and all his library." While the descendants of large numbers of the earliest New England colonists, whose genealogies have an interest only for their own families, have easily traced their localities and lineage in the mother country, all efforts — and they have been many and earnest — spent upon the subject of my remarks have wholly failed of rewarding results. Your predecessor in the chair, Mr. President, the keen, sagacious, and unwearied Mr. Savage, — our chief in the labors of research, — failed to accomplish in the case of Harvard what he did for so many other of our worthies. We recall the fervor of his utterance here when he spoke, as he has published in print, to the effect that he would give a guinea for each word, or a hundred dollars for each of five lines, of

information about John Harvard in England. It may have been that Harvard embarked from some port in Holland, as did so many coming to New England when the English ports were closed. If the name were Harward, instead of Harvard, we might find help in the fact that there is, and for more than three centuries has been, a family of the former name at Hayne, in the parish of Plympton, England. There is necessarily much that is unsatisfactory in a wholly idealized representation by art of an historical person of whose form, features, and lineaments there are no certifications. But the few facts which I have given as certified concerning Harvard are certainly helpful to the artist. It is hardly to be expected that any portrait of Harvard will be recovered, if any such exists. A symbol eminently appropriate for adorning the pedestal of the proposed statue, to be planted at the cloister end of Memorial Hall in the Delta, may be found in putting side by side the seal of Emmanuel College, and that most felicitously chosen of all like devices, the three open books and the *veritas* of Harvard. The pupil of the one institution was the founder of the other, transferring learning from its foreign home to this once wilderness scene.

Mr. DEANE said that he had had several interviews with the artist, Mr. French, on the subject of the costume for the John Harvard statue, and, from some representations of the dress worn by Puritan clergymen of the time, which they had examined, he thought that a definite idea of an appropriate costume might be formed. It was understood that Harvard was a clergyman educated at Cambridge, and, following as he did the fortunes of other clergymen who came to Massachusetts in the early period, he would be likely to be a Puritan of their stamp, — that is to say, not a Separatist. Pictures represent the Puritan minister of that day as wearing a somewhat closely fitting cloak, covering perhaps a cassock, with a broad linen collar and a skull-cap. The narrow bands and the wig came in later. No mistake could be made in the garment worn over the lower part of the body.

Other remarks respecting the true representation of the statue were made by Messrs. Lyman, T. C. Amory, A. T. Perkins, and Haynes.

The PRESIDENT then proceeded substantially as follows:—

I am by no means disposed to prolong this discussion, or to suggest any opposition to what has been proposed in honor of John Harvard. Yet to my own mind there is a question

behind all the points which have been mooted, and that is, how far encouragement should be given to the fabrication of statues of persons long dead, of whom there is no likeness, and of whose appearance there is no record or remembrance.

It is easy enough, perhaps, in such cases to decide on matters of costume. No great mistake, certainly, could be made in giving John Harvard the collegiate or the clerical dress of the early Puritan period. But as to his features, his limbs, his stature, his expression, there is absolutely nothing to guide us. It must be altogether a fancy sketch, "a counterfeit presentment," — to use Shakespeare's phrase, — and in more senses of the word than one.

I confess it seems to me that such attempts to make portrait statues of those of whom there are not only no portraits, but no records or recollections, are of very doubtful desirableness. Such a course tends to the confusing and confounding of historical truth, and leaves posterity unable to decide what is authentic and what is mere invention. The young Harvard has every claim to a statue; but it is a part of his history, and characteristic, if I may so speak, of his retiring disposition and quiet life, that there is no description or picture of him left. It seems to me of very questionable expediency to get up a fictitious likeness of him and make up a figure according to our ideas of the man.

I know that such things have been done both in marble and on canvas; sometimes honestly, and sometimes for purposes of imposture. There is a fine statue of Roger Williams at the Capitol in Washington, which is very interesting as a work of art. It looks like a young John Bunyan. But there is not a particle of authority for any part of it. It might be a little awkward, to say the least, if one of these days a likeness or verbal description of Roger Williams should be discovered, and it should prove to be totally different from the portrait statue which had been set up for him in the gallery of the nation!

It may seem hard that there should be no portraits or statues of those benefactors or illustrious men who may have died long ago without leaving any likeness. But there are other sorts of commemoration. There are tablets, monuments, memorial windows, halls, and chapels. In this very case and for this precise corridor, what could be better, or more effective, than a Muse of History, of classic model, holding in her hand a tablet inscribed with the name of John Harvard, setting forth his munificent bequest, distinctly stating that no authentic likeness of his form or features has been found, but adding that the whole University would forever portray the

liberality and elevation of his young heart, and challenge for his memory the undying gratitude of posterity?

Something of this kind would seem to me a thousand-fold better than attempting to conjure up a likeness, and thus to give a new example of a sort of mythical statues.

In regard to the precise amount of Harvard's bequest, I may recall the fact, that among the "Addenda" at the end of the second volume of Savage's Winthrop, in a list of the various donations to the Colony, the Governor says as follows: "Mr. Harvard gave to the college about £800." This would seem to remove all doubt, if there were any.

Mr. HILL reported from the committee to whom the subject had been referred, that it was not expedient for the Society to take any action in regard to the publication by the Government of an official history of the United States, which was contemplated.

The Rev. Mr. Jenks was added to the committee for publishing a volume of the Washington Letters, and Mr. Warren was nominated as its chairman.

The President announced that the Council had decided that the exercises in commemoration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Luther should be held in Arlington Street Church, on Saturday, November 10, at three o'clock, and that Dr. F. H. Hedge would deliver the oration, and Dr. Phillips Brooks would be invited to offer prayer. Messrs. Young, Smith, and Haynes were appointed a committee of arrangements.

Dr. GREEN proposed that a map of Rhode Island, showing the English and American lines during the siege of Newport in 1778, should be reproduced in *fac-simile* for the Society; and accordingly it was referred to the Committee on publishing the Proceedings. He also presented photographs of eleven old maps and fortifications of Boston and its neighborhood, the originals of which are in London. One of these is taken from a map of Boston Harbor made in the year 1711, and intended, doubtless, to represent Sir Hovenden Walker's fleet in the summer of 1711 on its way to attack Quebec. Another represents a large part of Eastern Massachusetts, including portions of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, and was made about the middle of the last century. A third shows Boston and its neighborhood, with the fortifications, during its siege, in the Revolution. There are also views of Boston and Castle William from different points.

Boston Neck

S. Kingston

West Passage



Dutch I.

Beaver Tail  *Light House*



Adm'l Ship

Middle Passage

Dumplings

Brentons Reef

Castle Hill

Breaston's I.

Goat I.



N. F.

L. Kingston!

Narraganset.



N. Kingston.

Hope I.

Despair.

Prudence I.

in pursuit of the British
which were then at anchor near Point G.

E. Greenwich!

Patience I.

*Warwick
Isle.*

ance I.

Beaver Tail. Light House.



Adm^l Ship.

Middle Passage.

Dumplings

Brentons Reef

Castle Hill
Brentons P.

Goat I.

Gooseberry I.

Newport.

British Lines

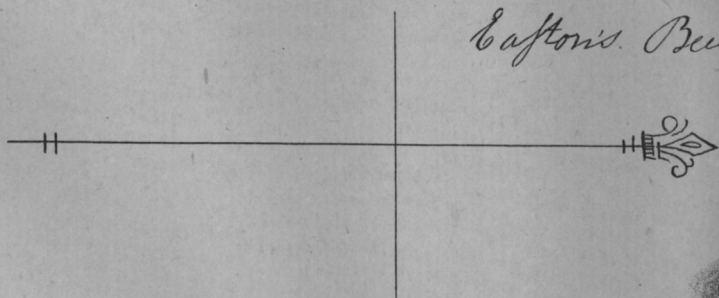
Caston's Beach

Caston's P.

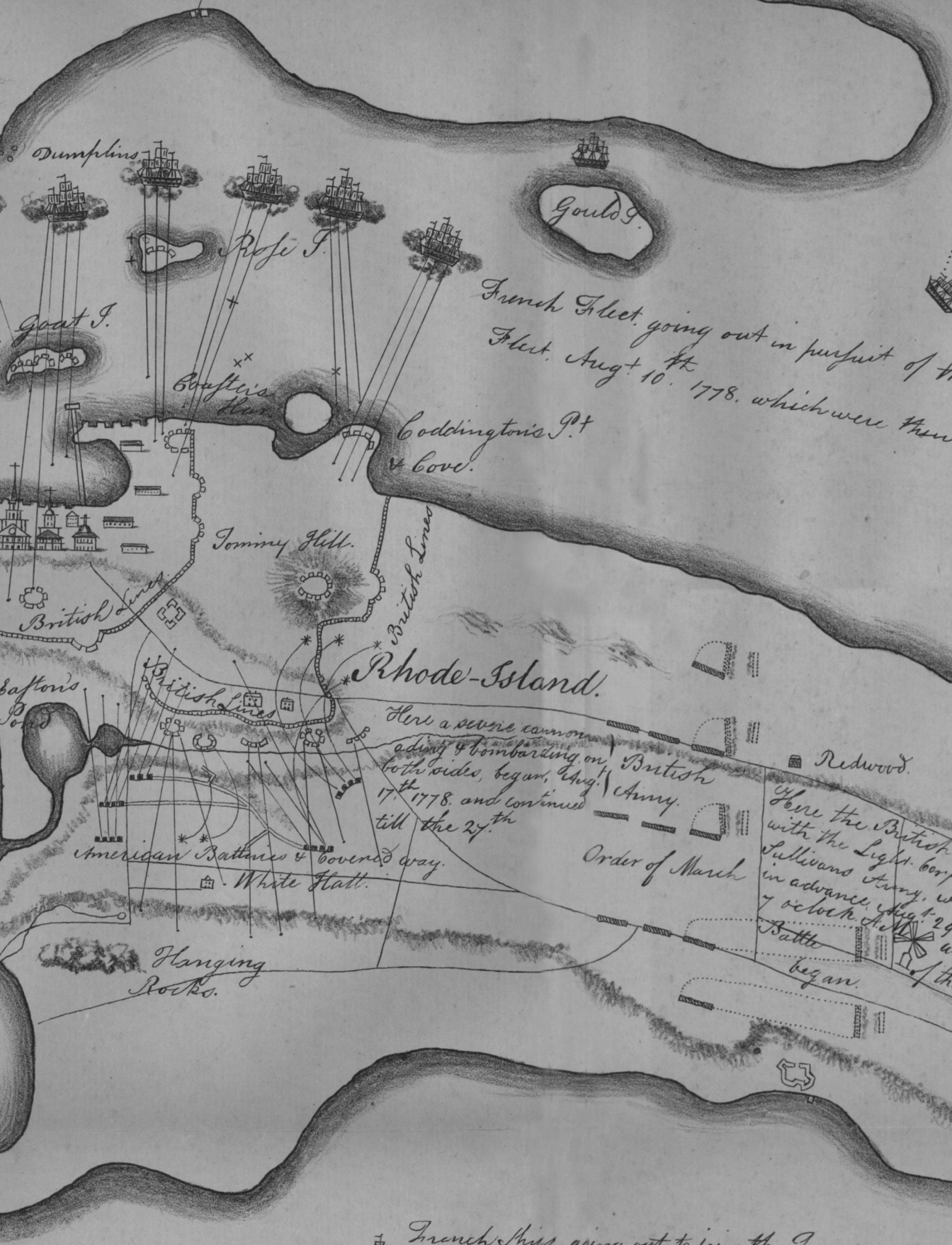
American

Schmuck's Beach.

Cormorant Rock



Connanicut I.



Hope I. Despair.

Prudence I.

in pursuit of the British
which were then at anchor near Point Judith.

Redwood.

Dyer's I.

Here the British Army came up
with the Light Corps of Gen.
Lillivans Army, which was
in advance, Aug. 2nd 1778.
when the Battle
began.

British ships firing
in time of Battle.

Decker Hill

Battle.

Tylor.

American
Army.

Order of
Battle.

Butter Hill.



Patience I.

Norwich
Isle.

ance I.

Paupasquash Point.

Castle I.

British ships firing on the American Troops
in time of Battle, Aug^t 29. 1778





Flog I.

Bristol.

M^t Hope!

icon
my.
of
ble.



- | | |
|---|--|
|  | BRITISH FORCES COLORED RED, BLUE, AND GREEN IN THE ORIGINAL. |
|  | AMERICAN FORCES COLORED YELLOW IN THE ORIGINAL. |
|  | BRITISH FORCES IN ACTION. |
|  | AMERICAN FORCES IN ACTION. |



Rhode-Island.

Here a severe cannon
fighting & Bombarding on British
both sides, began, Aug. 17th, 1778, and continued
till the 27th.

American Battalions & covered way.

White Flatt.

Hanging
Rocks.

Order of March

Redwood.

Here the British
with the Light 600
Sullivan's Army, w
in advance, Aug. 29th
7 o'clock. Battle
began.



French Ships, going out to join the French
Fleet, going to Crofton, Aug 20, 1778.



Frogland

First Line.

G. Glover.

Gr. Greene.

W. Cornell.

V. Varnum.

Second Line.

T. Titcomb.

Lo. Lovell.

Reserve. W. West.

Flanking Division

L. Livingston & J.

Little Compton.



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